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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OES-07 SIL-01
LAB-04 /092 W
----------113461 260412Z /63
P R 260345Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3055
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
COMUSJAPAN

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA PINT
SUBJ: DIET SESSION ENDS IN LDP SETBACK

SUMMARY: ON LAST DAY OF EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, OPPOSITION PARTIES SUCCEEDED IN BLOCKING TWO MAJOR BILLS, HANDING LDP UNEXPECTED SETBACK. SAME MIGHT HAPPEN IN NEXT SESSION UNLESS LDP TAILORS BILLS MORE CLOSELY TO OPPOSITION VIEWS.
END SUMMARY

1. TWO-MONTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF DIET ENDED ON SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 25 WITHOUT PASSAGE OF TWO MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH WERE PENDING IN UPPER HOUSE UP TO LAST MINUTE, HAVING ALREADY PASSED LOWER HOUSE. ONE BILL WOULD HAVE AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TO RAISE FARES ON DEFICIT-PLAGUED NATIONAL RAILWAYS (JNR) WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF

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DIET. SECOND WOULD HAVE RAISED PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OF EMPLOYEES COVERED BY NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM. PAIR OF MINOR BILLS AUTHORIZING SMALL CHANGES IN DEPLOYMENT OF SELF-DEFENSE FORCES WERE ALSO BLOCKED, AS WAS ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: LATTER, HOWEVER, IS EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED QUICKLY WHEN DIET RECONVENES DECEMBER 20.

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2. PASSAGE OF BOTH JNR AND HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS WAS RE-
SISTED BY COMMUNISTS, CLEAN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALIST PARTIES,
WITH NEW NEW LIBERAL CLUB IN FAVOR AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS
WAVERING. NATIONAL RAILWAY WORKERS AND OTHER SOHYO UNIONS
HELD SHORT NATION-WIDE STRIKE ON NOVEMBER 24 IN ORDER TO
DEMONSTRATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO BOTH BILLS (SEPTEL). LDP
DIET POLICY COMMITTEEMEN HAD NEGOTIATED FOR HOURS WITH
OPPOSITION COUNTERPARTS NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 25 TO GET BILLS
OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR FLOOR VOTE, BUT TIME FINALLY RAN OUT
AT MIDNIGHT.

3. DESPITE SETBACKS, EXTRAORDINARY SESSION PASSED NUMBER
OF SIGNIFICANT BILLS INCLUDING: SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (TOKYO
16603); JAPAN'S ACCESSION TO NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT (TOKYO
18015); BILL RAISING PENALITIES FOR AIR PIRACY; AND BILL
INCREASING BENEFITS TO UNEMPLOYED AND LENGTHENING TIME
PERIOD DURING WHICH BENEFITS CAN BE RECEIVED.

COMMENT: KEY TO FATE OF BILLS INTRODUCED THIS SESSION
WAS UPPER HOUSE, WHERE LDP HAS MAJORITY OF ONLY ONE SEAT
AND CHAIRS ONLY NINE OF SIXTEEN STANDING COMMITTEES.
CHAIRMANSHIP OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, WHERE JNR BILL
SAT FOR WEEKS, FOR EXAMPLE, IS HELD BY CLEAN GOVERNMENT
PARTY, WHILE SOCIAL AND LABOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHERE HEALTH
INSURANCE BILL DIED, IS CHAIRED BY SOCIALIST. IF OPPOSITIONN'S
ABILITY TO SCUTTLE THOSE BILLS IS ANY INDICATION, LDP
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WILL HAVE TO TAILOR ITS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR NEXT
SESSION SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSER TO OPPOSITION'S VIEWS OR RISK
SIMILAR DEFEATS. WHILE OUTCOME IS SETBACK FOR LDP,
WHICH UP TO LAST MINUTE APPEARED TO BE MANAGING DIET PROCEEDINGS
WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL, PART OF HEAT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN
BY JSP FOR DELAYING GOVERNMENT WORKERS' PAY RAISE; EMPLOYEES,
MAJORITY FROM PRO-JSP UNIONS, HAD ANTICIPATED RETROACTIVE
RAISE IN NEXT PAY ENVELOPES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, JA
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